

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 9 are currently pending. Claims 1 – 6, 8, and 9 have been allowed.

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP0834977. Claim 7 is hereby cancelled.

Since the Examiner has indicated that all of the remaining claims have been allowed, the Applicants respectfully assert that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance.

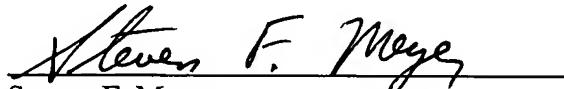
CONCLUSION

For these reasons, it is believed that all claims are patentable and that this application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: November 17, 2003

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